

**JOINT PUBLIC HEARING**  
**CGA Transportation Committee**  
**CGA Environment Committee**  
**March 11, 2022**

**In SUPPORT of**  
**Senate Bill 4: An Act Concerning the Connecticut Clean Air Act**  
**and**  
**House Bill 5039: An Act Concerning Medium and Heavy Duty Truck Standards**

Honored Co-Chairs Senator Cohen and Representative Gresko, Senator Haskell and Representative Lemar, and Distinguished Members of the Environment and Transportation Committees:

My name is Janet Bellamy, I am a resident of Ashford, a member of the Ashford Clean Energy Task Force and the Ashford Conservation Commission. I am writing as a private citizen.

I am writing in support of these two important bills, which will reduce air pollution from the transportation sector in Connecticut. Connecticut is not on track to meet its greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction goals. These goals were established to avoid the devastating impacts of climate change. In order to meet these important goals we need to reduce the transportation emissions that comprise 38% of Connecticut's total GHG emissions.

As an Occupational Therapist I have seen how devastating asthma and lung diseases can be for people of all ages. Recently New Haven was ranked #5 and Hartford #17 as cities with air quality that makes living with asthma difficult. This should be no surprise as Connecticut has not met the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for ozone or smog. According to the office of the Governor, last year Connecticut has had twenty-one days of unhealthy levels of ozone with some of the highest levels on the east coast. This is unacceptable as we know of the adverse impacts on health these high levels have, especially in environmental justice communities that are often located in congested neighborhoods. As transportation emissions contribute to 67% of local ozone-forming precursor emissions, ozone emissions cannot be significantly reduced without addressing the transportation sector.

**Senate Bill 4: An Act Concerning the Connecticut Clean Air Act** will require that all of the state's light duty vehicles be zero-emission by 2030; 100% zero-emission school buses in Environmental Justice communities by 2030 and the rest of state by 2035. By January 1, 2024, the state will cease to procure, purchase, or lease any diesel fueled transit bus; and will include e-bikes in the EV rebate program.

**House Bill 5039: An Act Concerning Medium and Heavy Duty Truck Standards** will allow Connecticut to reduce emissions from medium and heavy duty buses by adopting California's medium and heavy duty vehicle emission standards. Five states including New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Oregon, and Washington have already adopted the California standards. Trucks and buses produce NOx, CO<sub>2</sub>, and PM<sub>2.5</sub> pollution in Connecticut.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/Office-of-the-Governor/2022-Legislative-Proposals/AAC-Medium-and-Heavy-Duty-Vehicle-Emission-Standards.pdf>

These bills would improve air quality in Connecticut, improve the health and well being of our citizens, and reduce health care costs.

Thank you for your time, I ask you to please support these two important bills.

Thank you,  
Janet Bellamy  
Ashford, CT 06278

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